



Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is _____ and I oppose HB 434. This bill is an unnecessary measure which seeks to introduce additional equipment into the general archery season. The MBA is committed to educating bowhunters regarding various modifications which can be made to archery equipment under the Permit to Modify Archery Equipment (PTMAE).

The Montana Bowhunters Association worked collaboratively with the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to establish the Permit To Modify Archery Equipment (PTMAE). This permit allows a person with a permanent disability to use modified archery equipment that supports the bow, and draws, holds and releases the string to accommodate the individual disability. The permit holder may also have a companion present to assist in aspects of the hunt. Further, Montana accommodates hunters with disabilities with the Resident with a Disability Conservation license which offers reduced-cost licenses to qualified individuals. Interested individuals can refer to FWP's "Crossing the Barriers" pamphlet (attached) and the 2008 regulations. Montana's PTMAE meets the Americans with Disabilities Act's definition of reasonable accommodation and many modifications are readily available for current archery equipment.

Crossbows possess characteristics of firearms including a stock, trigger and scope and have an effective range of 100 yards, double the effective range of both compound and traditional bows. They are legal for use during general rifle season or in Special Weapons Restrictions Areas throughout the hunting season. They should not be added as legal equipment during the regular archery season. We urge you to table this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,